

Abstract

The invention relates to a method and an apparatus for panoramic dental X-raying. The apparatus comprises an arm (7) rotating about an axis (6), a radiation source (9) at one end (8) of the arm for generating an X-ray beam (12), a shutter (13) for shaping the X-ray beam, and at the opposite end (10) of the arm, a recorder (11) for receiving the X-ray beam after it has passed through the dental arch for forming an image of the dental arch. The X-raying is performed with rotation of the arm (7) so as to image substantially the entire length of the dental arch. According to the invention, the shutter (13) narrows the X-ray beam (12) in the front area of the dental arch in order to increase the thickness of the sharply imaged layer compared to the two sides of the dental arch. This solution allows compensation for the decrease in the width of the sharp layer caused by the orthogonal X-raying and for the consequently shortened X-raying radius in the front area of the dental arch. The sharp layer having increased thickness enhances the probability of successful images and the visibility of the dental structure in the pictures. The shutter (13) may have a narrow aperture through which the X-ray beam (12) passes and which decreases and increases in width under the mechanical control of the rotation of the arm.

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